

interfere, a public withdrawal was the only course offering relief, and this depended on her power to effect it.

Circular to the Freedmen

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CIRCULAR
TO THE FREEDMEN
OF WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA,
And adjoining Districts of South Carolina.

HEADQUARTERS FREEDMEN'S BUREAU

Charlotte, N.C.

October 1st., 1865.

Knowing that many of you have wrong impressions relative to your freedom, I send this Circular, that it may correct many erroneous ideas which are operating very much against your interests. I have learned that many of you have the foolish idea that at Christmas you are to receive lands, horses, and farming utensils, that you expect the United States Government to give to you a portion of your former master's property or plantation. As to this, let me say to you all, that the Government has no land in this portion of the State, and that all plantations and property of all kinds (except the negro) belong to your masters as heretofore—the Government having no claim upon them whatever. Any of you having such expectations, must at once and forever abandon such preposterous and absurd ideas; and any person or persons trying to make you believe anything of the kind are either fools or knaves, and are imposing upon your ignorance.

The Government has given you your freedom, and you must not expect anything further from it. The Government expects you to labor and work out your own salvation; and, unless you do, you go back to slavery, or a condition far worse. Any property that you may possess hereafter, you must acquire by labor, industry, and honesty. At the end of this year, those who have remained with their former masters, and worked faithfully, will be paid liberally for their labor, and will be able to provide clothing and food for themselves and families for a portion of another year, and will, in the mean time, if they have so conducted themselves as to gain the confidence and respect of their employers, be able to retain their places for another year, or to obtain of others good situations and